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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	50X1
SUBJECT	Chemical Warfare Training in the Bulgarian Army	DATE DISTR.	10 November 1955	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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554.2	20M

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO. [redacted]

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 18 Oct. 1955

SUBJECT Chemical Warfare Training in
the Bulgarian Army

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted]

REFERENCES:

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[redacted] and a chemical warfare refresher course for company-grade officers. The purpose of the course was to refresh the officers on the chemical warfare training they had received during their OCS training. Upon their return to their respective units, they were to instruct the EM in their units in routine chemical training, but not as unit chemical officers.

Classroom lectures on various types of gases were given but source only remembers that iperyt, phosgene, and diphosgene were mentioned. Instructors lectured on the recognition and detection of gases by their colors, odors, and symptoms; the use of litmus paper; methods of decontaminating gased areas and equipment; the characteristics of the Shlem-1 gas mask; and various types of protective clothing.

50X1

The course was scheduled to last about seven days; source attended

[redacted] course was initiated by the 7th Infantry Division and the officer-in-charge, whose name source does not remember, was the chief of the division's chemical section. Source believed that all officer-instructors were from this section. About 30 company-grade officers attended the course. From conversations with these officers, source discovered that they were from various subordinate units of the 7th Infantry Division. Upon completion of the course, these officers were to return to their respective units. For training aids, the instructors used charts during the classroom lectures. Texts or any other type of printed matter

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-2-

were not issued to any of the students; however, during the lectures, the students were told to make notes for future use.

4. Source remembered seeing two types of protective suits. One suit was light-weight and was made of dark green rubberized cloth. This suit consisted of trousers, blouse, boots, gloves, and a detachable hood. The blouse was put on by pulling it over the head; neck and sleeves openings were closed by draw strings and boots were worn over the trousers. Source believed that this light-weight suit was of German World War II manufacture.
5. The second suit was a heavy-weight suit and was made of black rubber. It consisted of a jacket with a detachable hood, trousers with suspenders, rubber boots, and rubber gloves. The rubber boots were put on first and then the trousers were pulled on over the boots. The rubber gloves were put on next and then the jacket was put on over the rubber gloves, the tight sleeves obviating any possibility of gas penetrating through the sleeves. The gas mask was supposed to be put on before placing the hood over the head. Source had no information about the manufacture of this suit.
6. Source also remembered seeing a smoke candle which he described as a green cardboard tube, five centimeters in diameter and about 30 cm in length. This tube was filled with cotton which had been saturated with an unidentified agent. The fuze was believed to have a phosphorous-type head which ignited when struck and, in turn, ignited the chemical agent and cotton which burned and produced a black smoke. Source could not remember the length of time the smoke candle burned or any other details.
7. In the units in which source served at battalion level, there was one chemical NCO. Regimental-level units normally had a subordinate chemical platoon while a division normally had a chemical company. Authorized and/or actual strengths of any of these chemical units were not known to source.

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